



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

22 Bridge St. Third Floor
PO Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639
Fax: 603-225-1434
nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



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USDA FORECASTS ANNUAL CRANBERRY PRODUCTION

In August of each year, USDA publishes the official cranberry production forecast for the five major cranberry-producing States. In Massachusetts, the study is administered by the New England field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Last year about 23 percent of the total cranberry produced were grown in Massachusetts. Wisconsin accounted for nearly 60 percent of the total production. Oregon, New Jersey, and Washington accounted for the remaining production.

USDA's Cranberry Growers Survey is the only chance to officially forecast production for the 2004 crop. This annual study is part of a National program to establish official USDA statistics for cranberry acreage and production. Approximately 500 Massachusetts growers will be asked for their help in this five-State effort to forecast 2004 production. The survey will be mailed in late July and non-respondents will be called in early August. As with all surveys conducted by NASS, individual operator information is kept strictly confidential and is exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination with others to establish State and National estimates.

The cooperation of growers is crucial to ensure that the Massachusetts crop is accurately represented in National production statistics, and participation is supported by the cranberry industry. It was in response to requests from growers and others in the cranberry industry that NASS published prices by utilization for the first time last year. Preliminary cranberry prices for both fresh and processed production were published in the January 2004 **Non-Citrus Fruit & Nut Preliminary** summary for the years 2001 through 2003 for all five cranberry-producing States.

The cranberry production forecast will be released in the **Cranberries Report** from Washington, D.C. at 1:00 p.m. on August 17, 2004. All reports become available on the Internet (www.usda.gov/nass) within minutes of the scheduled release time. Statistics for the entire United States will be reprinted in the **Cranberries Report** from the Concord field office. The semi-annual report is available on the Internet (www.nass.usda.gov/nh) and complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six States in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All National statistics and State level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.]

For More Information Contact: Dave Mikelson at 1-800-642-9571 ext 121